

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

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O R 091600Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2089

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON THE REICHSBAHN PROBLEM

REF: USBERLIN 448, 427

1. SUMMARY: FRG IS GOING TO ASK FOR A BONN GROUP MEETING ON MARCH 10 IN ORDER TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO GAUS, WHO IS UNWILLING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THE EAST GERMANS WITHOUT FIRM KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE ALLIES WANT HIM TO SAY. WE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF SUCH MEETING. END SUMMARY:

2. AT LUNCH TODAY WITH KORNBLUM AND POLAD, SENATOR STOBBE AND HERZ DISCUSSED REICHSBAHN PROBLEM. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY GREATLY CONCERNED WITH IMPASSE, AND EXPRESSED ANXIETIES ABOUT IMPACT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SHOULD ALLIES STOP THE WORK, AND THE NEW RAILWAY
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STATIONS BE DENIED BERLIN TRAVELLERS. IN REVIEWING

BACKGROUND OF DECEMBER AGREEMENTS, STOBBE NOTED THAT SENAT HAD BEEN STUCK IN UNEVIABLE POSITION BETWEEN THE ALLIES AND THE FRG IN THAT FRG HAD DISAPPOINTED ALLIES BY TIME PRESSURE AND IMPERFECT CONSULTATIONS, BUT ALL OF ALLIED RESENTMENT HAD SEEMED TO FLOW AGAINST THE SENAT. HE ENDORSED NEED FOR ALLIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR COMMAND OVER REICHSBAHN ACTIVITIES IN OUR SECTORS, BUT THOUGHT THAT BK/O(75)15 MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVE.

3. STOBBE AND HERZ CONFERRED YESTERDAY WITH GAUS WHO SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON PROBLEM WITH SAIDEL OF GDR FORMINISTRY ON MARCH 5. GAUS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO SEIDEL THIS WEEK, UNLESS HE HAD SOME PARTICULAR POINT TO MAKE, ANOTHER APPROACH WAS LIKELY TO LEAD TO NOTHING.

4. IT WAS PROPOSED BY STOBBE THA THE ALLIES AND THE FRG AGREE QUICKLY ON SOME SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS OR PROPOSALS THAT GAUS COULD MAKE AT HIS NEXT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. THERE SEEMED TO BE AGREEMENT THAT THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS TO SATISFY THE ALLIED POSITION WOULD BE (A) ON AFFIRMATIVE RB STEP ASKING FOR PERMISSION, AND (B) SUBSEQUENT RB ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALLIED APPROVAL. STOBBE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT GAUS COULD BE INSTRUCTED TO SUGGEST THAT THE RB SUBMIT THEIR REQUEST FOR APPROVAL VIA THE TWO SENAT EMPLOYEES WHO SERVE AS US AND UK MISSION LIAISON OFFICERS TO THE RB. HE SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE FRG ASK FOR A BONN GROUP MEETING ON MARCH 10 TO CONSIDER SUCH INSTRUCTIONS.

5. WE STATED THAT WE THOUGHT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD SATISFY THE ALLIES, AND SAID THE US SIDE WOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A MEETING TOMORROW.

6. WITHOUT GOING TOO MUCH INTO REBUTTAL OF SOME OF STOBBE'S REMARKS, WHICH REALLY WERE NOTHING BUT A FORM OF SELF-COMMISERATION, WE REITERATED THE FIRM NEED OF ALLIES TO ASSERT OUR RIGHTS IN THIS AREA, LEST GDR DRAW CONCLUSION THAT RB LAND WAS OME SORT OF EXTRATERRITORIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VATICAN CITY WHICH SPREAD THROUGH ALL THE WESTERN SECTORS.

7. POLAD SAID THAT US MISSION WAS PERSUADED THAT TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT, SINCE RB WAS GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD WITH WORK AT THE WANNSEE STATION. SENDER FREIES BERLIN THIS MORNING HAD CALLED US MISSION AND POINTED OUT THAT THE PASSENGER PLATFORM OF WANNSEE WAS NOW BEING LENGTHENED. WE WERE ASKED WHETHER WE STILL CONSIDERED

SUCH POSITIVE CONSTRUCTION AS ONLY "PRELIMINARY OR PREPARATORY" WORK" WHICH DID NOT TRIGGER REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF OUR DECEMBER BK/O. SINCE THIS LATTER PRETENSION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPLAUSIBLE, WE HAD AVOIDED SUBSTANCE OF QUESTION BY STONEWALLING, I.E., WE SAID ENTIRE MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS AT THIS TIME.

8. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER THAT THE CHANNEL PROPOSED BY STOBE WOULD BE SATISFACTORY, AND RECOMMEND ITS ACCEPTANCE. WE CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND GAUS' RELUCTANCE TO GO INTO AN ALLIED MATTER WITHOUT FULL ADVANCE ALLIED CONCURRENCE AS TO WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR HIM TO SAY.

9. IN VIEW OF THE UNFAVORABLE PROGRESSION OF EVENTS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THREE EMBASSIES NOW APPROVE THE DRAFT BK/O OF USBERLIN 427 SO THAT IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION EARLY NEXT WEEK, IF NECESSARY. ASSUMING THAT GAUS AGAIN WERE TO TALK WITH THE GDR ON MARCH 12 AND WERE TO RECEIVE A NEGATIVE REPLY, WE WOULD VISUALIZE A POSSIBLE FINAL INTERVIEW WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF THIS WERE ALSO NEGATIVE, AND THE RB WORK CONTINUES, WE SHOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO HAVE THE ALLIED MISSIONS FIRST DIRECTLY ASK THE CONTRACTING FIRMS TO DESIST FROM CONSTRUCTION, AND THEN, IF THEY DISOBEY, SERVE THE INJUNCTION ORDER ON THEM. GEORGE

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